



THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

YEAR END

DEC 2022



**THE WORD
FOR THE WORLD**
BIBLE TRANSLATORS

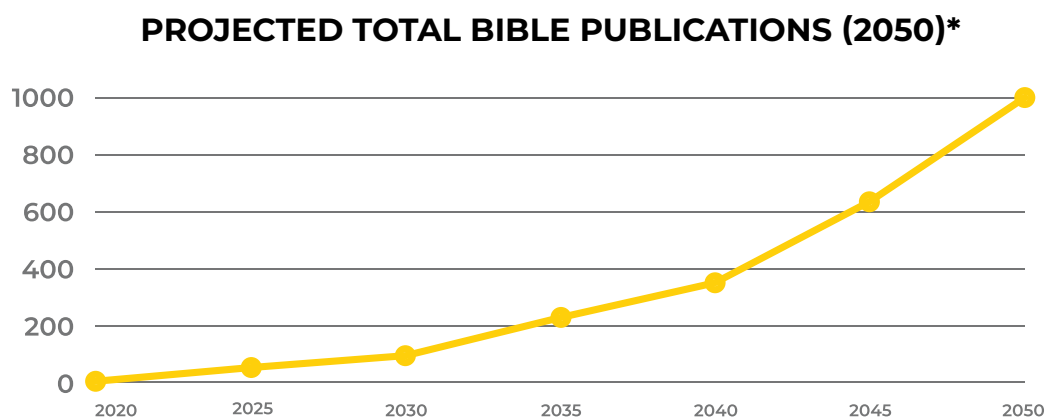


**A BIBLE
IN EVERY
LANGUAGE**

THE 2050 VISION

1,000
LANGUAGES
BY 2050

The Word for the World (TWFTW) envisages being instrumental in completing first-time translations of the entire Bible in 1,000 languages by 2050.



* This graph is based on visionary projections of TWFTW Bible translation projects and TWFTW's current Scripture translation rate.

INTRODUCTION

It is with great joy and pride in what the Lord has done through The Word for the World (TWFTW) in 2022 that I write. TWFTW has extended its reach in almost every direction, and we have seen God's provision at every step. A number of new initiatives were put in motion, such as the establishing of a Relational Services Team, a Communication Strategy, and a new department for Partner Engagement, as well as prayer becoming more of a focus, and oral Bible translation becoming more than just a dream.

We in TWFTW continue to dream. We dream God-sized dreams—the kind of dreams that seem out of our reach and sound ridiculous and impossible. We have a dream for the use of AI to assist our translators in dramatically speeding up Scripture translation work. We dream that oral Bible translation will help us to reach the Bibleless with the Word of God in the uncharted waters of Eurasia and the Far East, as well as in other regions and countries that are hostile to Christianity. We dare to dream that we will make a huge difference in eradicating Bible poverty, and that we will be there when everyone involved in Bible translation celebrates all people groups having the Word of God in their heart language. And so, we dream that TWFTW may contribute to hastening the return of our King, fulfilling the prophecy:

**“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
Matt 24:14, NIV”**

»»» As we continue to dream together, let us trust in the Lord that He will complete the work He began, as the Scriptures affirm:

**“...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Phil 1:6, NIV”**

The need for Bible translation



7.4 billion

PEOPLE LIVE ON OUR PLANET



3,527

LANGUAGES IN WHICH
WORK IS IN PROGRESS

7,397

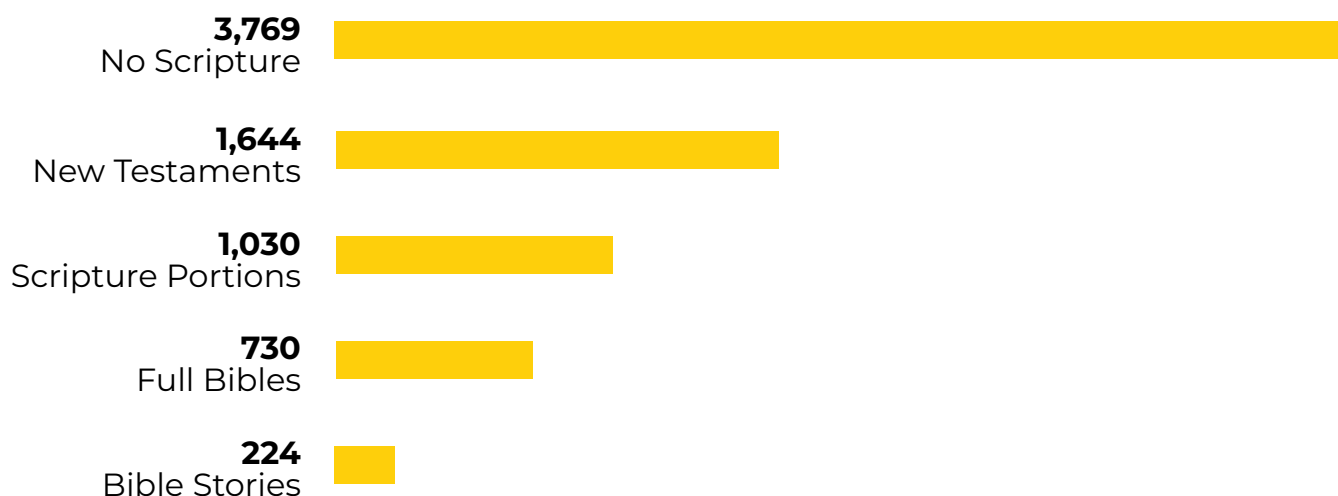
LIVING LANGUAGES IN
THE WORLD



1.5 billion

PEOPLE (20% OF ALL
PEOPLE) DO NOT HAVE
THE FULL BIBLE IN THEIR
MOTHER TONGUE.

COMPLETED SCRIPTURE¹ (NUMBER OF LANGUAGES)



¹ SOURCE: PROGRESS BIBLE; PUBLIC STATISTICS - MAY 9, 2023.



PUBLICATION + DISTRIBUTION

**“Death has no power
over me anymore”**

*[a man who heard the Bible
spoken in his heart language]*

X4

FIRST-TIME FULL BIBLES

4 awaiting printing:

Ethiopia: Aari, Bench,
Gedeo and Guji

X5

FIRST-TIME NEW TESTAMENTS

5 in distribution:

SEA R1: Khatei²
Ethiopia: ³Konta, Melo,
Oyda and Yemsa

X4

NEW TESTAMENTS PRINTED

Ethiopia: Awngi, Baiso,
Gayil and Sheko



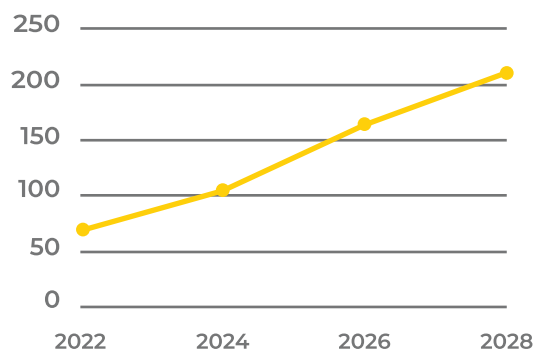
x70

PEOPLE GROUPS

GAIN ACCESS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE!

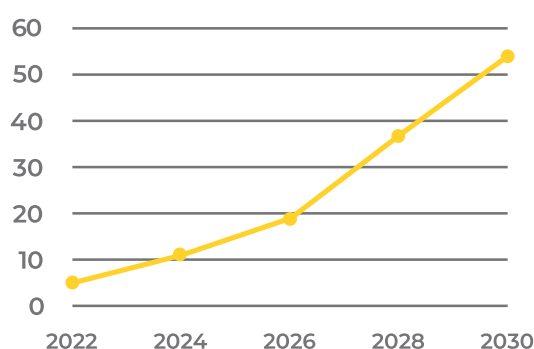
That is a total of
25 MILLION PEOPLE

**PROJECTED TOTAL NEW
TESTAMENT PUBLICATIONS †**



† Based on progress to date

**PROJECTED TOTAL FULL
BIBLE PUBLICATIONS †**



† Based on progress to date

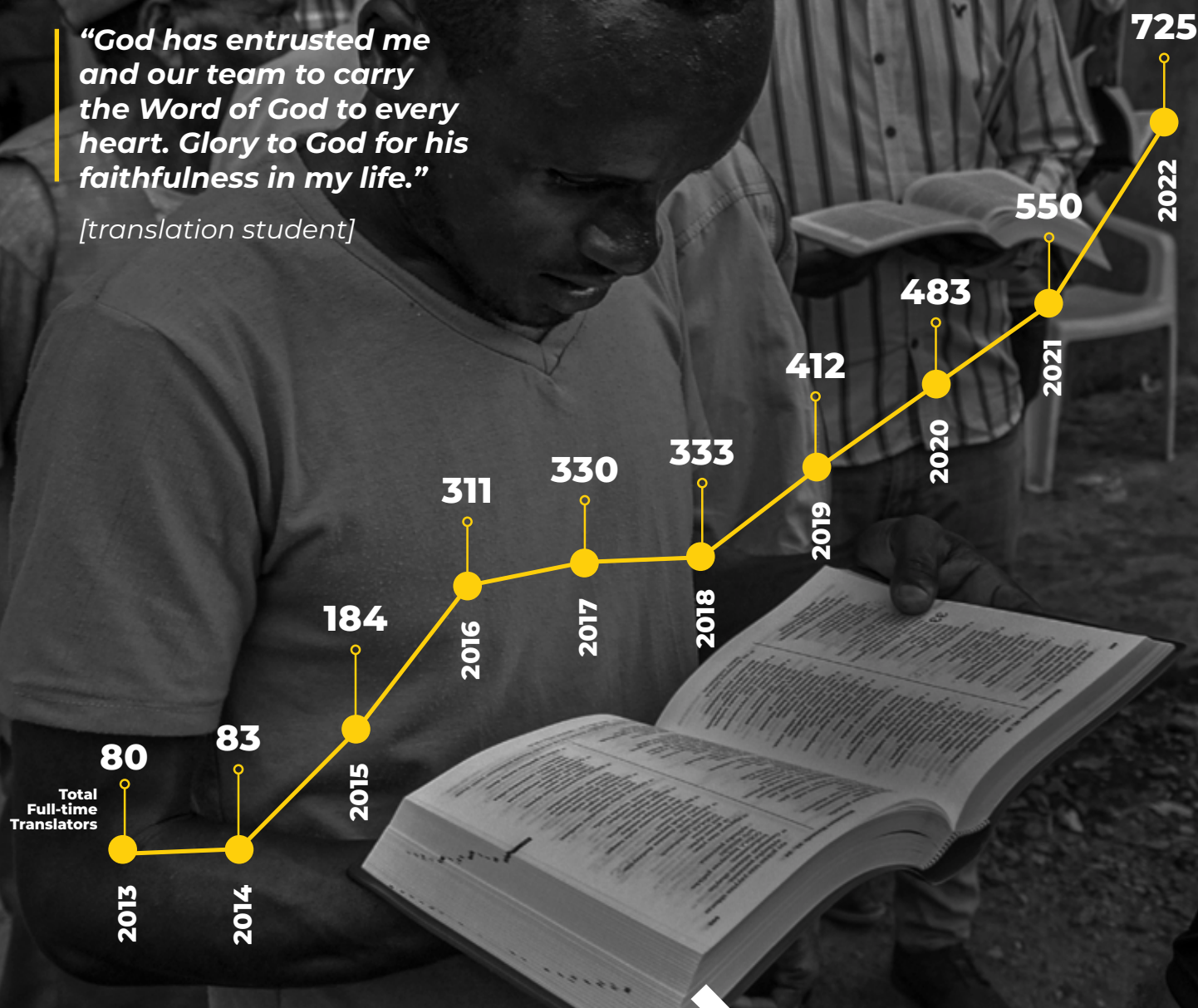
² For security reasons codes/pseudonyms are used for Asian country and language names.

³ The Konta, Melo and Oyda New Testaments were printed in both Ethiopic and Latin script.

FULL-TIME TRANSLATORS

*"God has entrusted me
and our team to carry
the Word of God to every
heart. Glory to God for his
faithfulness in my life."*

[translation student]



FULL-TIME BIBLE TRANSLATORS

725 full-time Bible translators (all indigenous)* representing 220 people groups (population 59 million) in Africa, Asia and Europe are translating (or completed translating) the Bible into their languages.



x725

**FULL-TIME BIBLE
TRANSLATORS**

(ALL INDIGENOUS)



* All TWFTW translators are indigenous to the language into which they are translating; these figures include TWFTW-trained, full-time translators in 26 projects managed by Bible translation partner agencies.

BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECTS

TRANSLATION RATE

TWFTW is averaging

5.3 YEARS

to complete a New Testament translation!⁶

13.0 YEARS

years to complete a full Bible translation!⁷

X37

TOTAL NEW TRANSLATION PROJECTS⁵



x6 **NORTHERN AFRICA**

Kenya: Mbeere, Olukhayo, Olumarachi, Olumarama, Olushisa and Terik



x11 **CENTRAL AFRICA**

Uganda: Aliba, Gimara, Kuku, Kusua (OBT)⁸, Livanuma (OBT)⁸, Reli (written), Reli (OBT)⁸, Runyabindi, Rusongora, Rutagwenda and Rutuku



x9 **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

DRC: Hemba, Kete & Kuba
Malawi: Nyiha
Zambia: Mbowe (OBT)⁸, Sala & Totela
Zimbabwe: Barwe and Tawara



x3 **ASIA**

ASIA R3: Pantral, Poha and Wadheri



x5 **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

SEA R2: Samlung
SEA R3: Dongka (OBT)⁸
SEA R4: Altenan (OBT)⁸, Noi
SEA R5: Khaneng



x3 **EUROPE**

Serbia/Croatia: Arli, Chergash and Gurbet

***TWFTW** was given responsibility for projects in Croatia and Serbia from a Bible translation partner.

KNOCKING ON DOORS IN

Asia: Various countries

Southeast Asia: SEA R6

Northern Africa: Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Liberia, AFRICA R2 (cross-border languages), and AFRICA R3

Southern Africa: Angola, Mozambique and Namibia

TWFTW is working in 11 of the top 20 countries in which ETEN⁹ has unmet Scripture translation goals for 2033; that number will soon be 14 out of 20.



ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION:

Started first 6 OBT projects in:

Asia - SEA R3 (x1 project) and SEA R4 (x1);
Africa - Uganda (x3) and Zambia (x1)

⁵ For security reasons codes/pseudonyms are used for sensitive Asian and African country and language names.

⁶ TWFTW considers a translation complete when a consultant approves it for publication.

⁷ Based on TWFTW's eleven Bible translations.

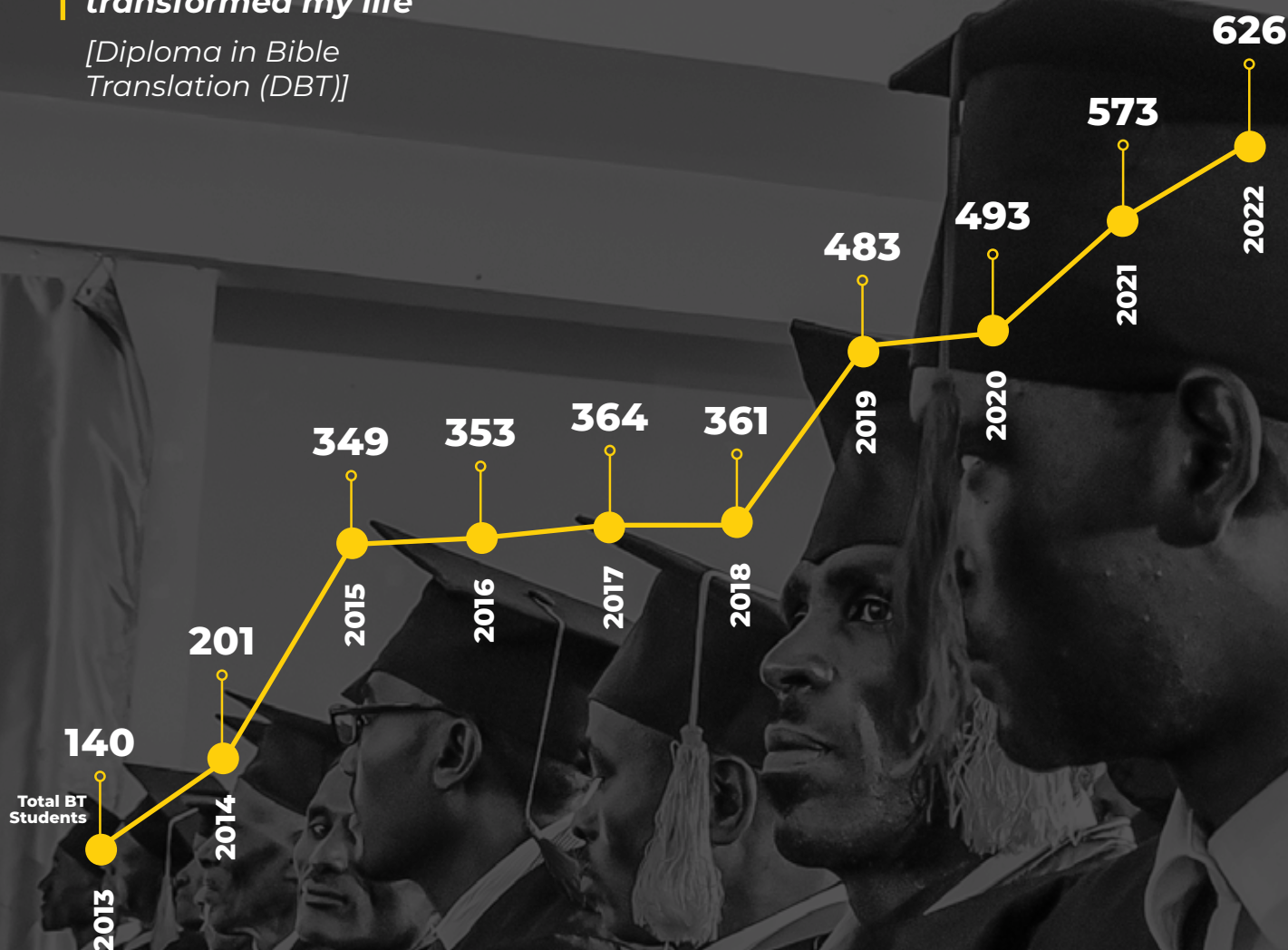
⁸ Oral Bible Translation project started in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing.

⁹ ETEN (Every Tribe Every Nation) is the world's largest alliance of individuals and agencies partnering together to provide God's Word in everyone's heart language

BIBLE TRANSLATION (BT) STUDENTS

*"This training
transformed my life"*

[Diploma in Bible
Translation (DBT)]



x626
STUDENTS

ENROLLED IN THE
(DBT) PROGRAMME

Most are involved in, or preparing to
begin, first-time translation of the
Bible into their language.

BIBLE TRANSLATOR TRAINING

x234 **NEW STUDENTS**
enrolled in 2022
(an 86% increase in new
enrolments over 2021!).

x68 **STUDENTS RECEIVED**
a DBT in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



x626
ENROLLED DBT
STUDENTS



x22
NATIONALITIES



x220
LANGUAGES

**AS OF
DEC 31**

we have 152 faculty members from 21 nationalities.

58 of these individuals completed the DBT (in addition to achieving other qualifications).

Conducted online conference for approximately 110 training staff from all regions and countries. Served as key staff development event: promoted training with excellence and built cohesion

**SINCE OUR
TRAINING
STARTED
IN 1981**

Over 840 indigenous students (participants of at least one training event) have gone on to be employed in the field of Bible translation.

392 of our students from 17 different nationalities have graduated with a full DBT and 33 with a Certificate in Bible Translation.



TRAINING EVENTS



x54
TRAINING
EVENTS

(includes DBT, OBT and online training courses) in 11 countries including our first training in Namibia

DBT EVENTS:

Asia: ASIA R1 x16 and ASIA R2 x2

Southeast Asia: SEA R1 x2, SEA R2 x3 and SEA R3 x1

Northern Africa: Ethiopia x2, Kenya x1, Nigeria x2, AFRICA R1 x1

Central Africa: Uganda x1

Southern Africa: DRC x2, Tanzania x2 and Namibia x1

Europe: Croatia x2

OBT EVENTS:

Southeast Asia: ASIA R3 x1 and ASIA R4 x1

Central Africa: Uganda x3

Southern Africa: Zambia x2

Introduction to Bible Translation Training, Uganda, 2022



BIBLE TRANSLATION CONSULTATION



x31

**FULL-TIME
CONSULTANTS**

(22 indigenous
to the nations for
which they consult)

x39
**CONSULTANTS-
IN-TRAINING (CITs)**

39 CITs (most indigenous to the
people/nation they will be serving)

Running OBT-specific course for
exegetes and consultants

x95
CONSULTATIONS
one-on-one and group consultations

Group consultations: x46

1 group consultation had 10 teams and 3 other group
consultations had 9 teams each

1 TWFTW consultant consulted with 50 BT teams in 6 months

237 times a team was served (some teams more than once)

x13
**ASIA
CONSULTATIONS**

ASIA R1: x9

(7 were group consultations)

ASIA R2: x4

(3 were group consultations)

x15
**SOUTHEAST ASIA
CONSULTATIONS**

SEA R1: x10

(2 group consultations)

SEA R2: x5

(1 group consultation)

x2
**CENTRAL AFRICA
CONSULTATIONS**

Uganda: x2

(OBT consultations)

x12
**EUROPE
CONSULTATIONS**

Serbia and Croatia: x12

(2 group consultations)

x24
**NORTHERN AFRICA
CONSULTATIONS**

Ethiopia: x12

(5 group consultations)

Nigeria: x8

(all 8 were group consultations)

Kenya: x1

AFRICA R1: x3

x29
**SOUTHERN AFRICA
CONSULTATIONS**

Malawi: x3

Tanzania: x14

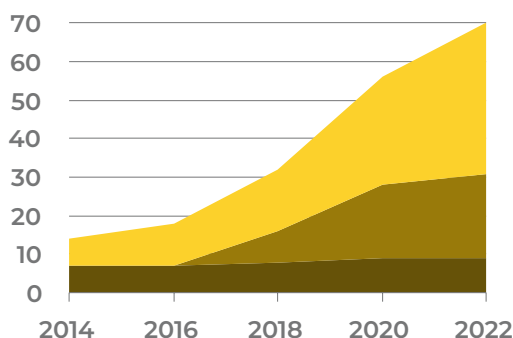
(all 14 were group
consultations)

Zambia: x7

(6 group consultations)

Zimbabwe: x5

TRANSLATION CONSULTANTS



- Indigenous Consultants-In-Training
- Indigenous Consultants
- Expatriate Consultants



x27

LITERACY PROGRAMMES

IN AFRICA AND ASIA¹¹



¹¹ For security reasons codes/ pseudonyms are used for Asian country and language names.

LITERACY WORK

X9

ASIA LITERACY PROGRAMMES

x7 existing programmes in ASIA R1:
Disi, Gavi, Harem, Hiama, Hidoli,
Holiboli and Lire

x2 new programs:
Komi and Manal

Total Students Enrolled: x162

X3

SOUTHEAST ASIA LITERACY PROGRAMMES

x3 literacy programmes in SEA R1:
Bunug, Ganit and Nagut

Total Students Enrolled: x167

X14

NORTHERN AFRICA LITERACY PROGRAMMES

x1 Ethiopian literacy programme:
Maale

Total Students Enrolled: x65

x13 Nigerian literacy programmes:
Arum, Bandawa, Buh, Eloyi, Gwandara,
Kaka-Builak, Kona, Lamma, Mashi,
Munga, Numana, Tanga and Wanu

Total Students Enrolled: x237

X1

SOUTHERN AFRICA LITERACY PROGRAMMES

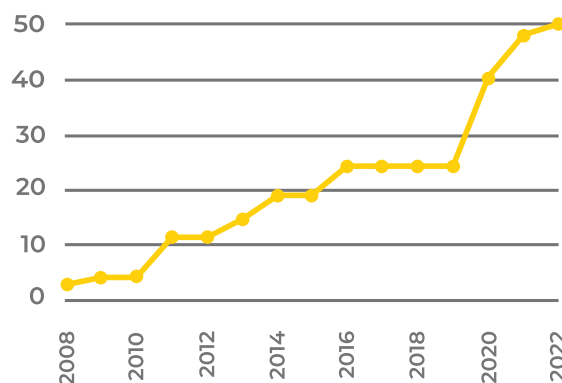
x1 Malawian literacy programme:
Sena

Total Students Enrolled: x3,269

*"I would like to express
my gratitude towards the
organization, supporters,
organizers and authorities
for developing us through
the study of Bible translation
and language development."*

[DBT Student]

**TOTAL LANGUAGE
COMMUNITIES SERVED**
(WITH LITERACY PROGRAMMES)



CHALLENGES



BIBLE TRANSLATION CONSULTANTS:

The current availability of consultants, who provide quality assurance for Scripture translations, continues to be a struggle - especially as the number of Scripture translations in progress increases. However, TWFTW is working successfully with indigenous leaders to increase the availability of consultants.



REMOTENESS OF VILLAGES:

Supervisors must travel great distances from national offices to meet with Bible translation and literacy teams.

Many remote areas have poor or no electricity nor internet signals which obstruct online meetings and ability to communicate with translators and literacy workers.



HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS:

Continuous instability and violence is present in almost all of the countries in which we are working. An example of this constant threat was expressed by a member of the Weida people in SEA R2:

"It is dangerous to travel to the villages where our team is working. We may be arrested and killed because some villagers [serving] as spies can report us to the army or to the revolutionary forces. It has been four months since we did a community check, and we had to do it with our nearest trustful friends instead of going to villages."

"I thank God Almighty who, by His mercy, kept us alive to witness the end of this DBT programme."

[DBT Student]



TESTIMONIES

¹² For security reasons codes/pseudonyms are used for sensitive Asian and African country and language names.

““ASIA

Mr. D. was born a Kashi language speaker in ASIA R¹². He shared this testimony: “Due to my low education level, I couldn’t get a full-time job. I started to go to daily wage work to meet the need of my wife and five children. During this time, I began drinking alcohol, using tobacco and fighting with my wife and children. My life was in a complete mess. One day one of my relatives gave me some Scripture portions written in Kashi and told me about Jesus. As I read the Scriptures while going back home, the Lord spoke to me about my sinful life. It was so clear to me because it was written in my language. I confessed my sins to Jesus Christ and accepted him as my personal Saviour. The Lord has helped me to overcome my drinking habit. Peace and joy have returned to my family. People of the society are surprised to see the change in my life. I believe the Scripture in my language made a great impact in my life and still is making a great impact in the lives of my family.”



— “The Lord spoke to me...”

““ASIA

Mr. V. is a member of the Chino people in ASIA R¹². His story is as follows: “I was brought up in a family that believed in the major religion of the state. About a year ago, I met two people from Chino Bible translation team. They gave me Scripture portions. I was so excited to read them as it was the first time I saw something written in my mother tongue. As I read it, I was able to understand it very clearly. The translators shared the Gospel with me, and when I heard the Gospel, I was convicted of my sin. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour that day. The Lord has been so good to me and my family, and now we regularly read the Scripture portions translated into my mother tongue because we are able to understand and relate to the meaning.”



““ETHIOPIA

Mr. Yaykob Ambasa is one of the reviewers of the Gayil Scripture translation in Ethiopia. After hearing the audio recording of the Gayil New Testament, seeing the Jesus Film in Gayil, and reading Gayil Scripture portions, he said, “I am amazed because God is willing to let us hear the film in our language, as well as reading the message in print. How God loves us!”



— “it was the first time I saw something written in my mother tongue.”

— “God is willing to let us hear the film in our language,”

““ETHIOPIA

Mrs. Kasech Fekadu is a local church minster in the Melo community in Ethiopia. She travelled to the translation office and said, “I am very happy that our New Testament is with us. In my opinion, this has a positive effect for the entire Melo people, especially for Melo women who don’t have any education to understand the other languages. Therefore, its significance is more on Melo women than any other group. I praise God, who brought us freedom.”



— “I am very happy that our New Testament is with us.”

““NIGERIA

The Gwandara Bible translation project in Nigeria has inspired the people to embrace the Word of God, since they comprehend it better in their own language – even those who have not attended school and are illiterate in both Hausa and English (national languages).



— “[The Bible translation project] inspired the people to embrace the Word of God.”

***“Undoubtedly
there are
all sorts of
languages in
the world, yet
none of them
is without
meaning.”***

1 Cor 14:10 NIV



“NIGERIA

The Christian community in Lamma Land in Nigeria has become more unified as a result of Bible translation work. The project's launch has significantly reduced the denominational divisions that previously existed.

Bible translation has helped to unify the Christian community.

“CROATIA

A young man named Denis attended an Arli community Scripture translation checking session in Croatia. He was not a believer. When 2 Timothy 3:14-15 was read in Romani, he was really touched and he understood that God had been with him even through difficult times such as when he served time in prison. At the end of the session, he gave his life to Christ. Our community checker, Vladica, started to work with him one-on-one to help him to grow in his faith. Now he is part of the church and sharing his story with others from his community.

“SLOVAKIA

A man named Dušan (age 60) who was a loan shark for 20 years had been lending money to poor people at high interest rates. He started to drink and began beating the woman he was living with. He also gambled and squandered whatever winnings he had. When Dušan heard the Word of God in his heart language of Eastern Slovak Romani, Christ entered his life. He changed his ways without needing anyone else to tell him to. He stopped lending money with interest, and he quit gambling, smoking and drinking. He also got married to his partner, and he is now faithful and is involved in ministry. He started to go to Bible school. He is a completely changed man.

Loan shark came to Christ at age 60

“SLOVAKIA

Václav and Jana, of the Eastern Slovak Roma people, had a dysfunctional married life and family. Both of them were drinking, and their children had to grow up living desperate lives and bearing the shame of their parents' delinquent behaviour. When Václav drank, he would go outside and walk half-naked around the village, acting aggressively and looking for someone to fight. One day they heard the Gospel preached in their mother tongue, Romani. Václav and Jana both received Jesus. God healed their marriage, and their children began going to church with them. Now, when Václav walks through the village to the church, everybody is amazed to see how God has changed him and Jana.

“NIGERIA

The Dawa people in Nigeria feel extremely privileged to be among the people groups that can have the Bible translated into their own language. A member of the tribe reported: *“TWFTW's relentless efforts to teach us how to write and read our language, as well as to provide us with the orthography, have resulted in our endangered language making a strong comeback. There is no hatred among Christians, Muslims, or adherents of traditional religions, which is a positive trait of our people. Our only concern is the future development of our language. And today, our language is being taught in our community's schools, particularly in the primary and junior secondary institutions.”*

“...our endangered language [is] making a strong comeback.”

“NIGERIA

According to village leaders, Bible translation and literacy activities have had a significant impact on the Kona community in Nigeria. Numerous people are now able to read, write and spell several words in the Kona language. Additionally, people were able to perform and compose songs, and on a number of occasions sang, told proverbs and stories, performed a play, participated in a reading contest, and much more. The translation of the Nigerian National Anthem into Kona was an unexpected bonus. People who lack formal education and who struggle to comprehend English and Hausa can now access the Bible in their mother tongue.

“...people are now able to read, write...”

God healed their marriage



Kitabu chukutumbula chi ingobu

Kitabu chukutumbula
chi ingobu

Kandikigwe na
The Word for the World
P.O. BOX 1843
Morogoro, Tanzania
The Word for the World Bible Translations, July 2009

PARTNERS

¹³ For security reasons codes are used for some Asian organisation names.

TWFTW IS GRATEFUL FOR EVERY ONE OF OUR PARTNERS WHO ARE HELPING TO FULFIL THE CALL TO TRANSLATE THE SCRIPTURES IN EVERY LANGUAGE:

INDIGENOUS CHURCHES / ORGANISATIONS ¹³

- ASIA RP1
- SEA RE1
- VARIOUS NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETIES

ORGANISATIONS



United Bible Societies



LUMO PROJECT



The Digital Bible Library



YouVersion



FORUM OF BIBLE AGENCIES INTERNATIONAL

COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS & CHURCHES WORLDWIDE

CONCLUSION

There are numerous and far-reaching changes happening in TWFTW right now. God is at work, and He is continuing to shape TWFTW into a dynamic vehicle to reach those who are lost without His Word. He is the master artist, creating and sculpting TWFTW into an organisation that will continue to bring Him glory and honour.

At the same time, we have to be mindful that we have an enemy as we continue to face many challenges and obstacles everywhere we work. Therefore, let us rely on God as the master problem solver and know that nothing is too difficult for Him. As Jesus taught us,

“...there is nothing that God cannot do.”
Luke 1:37, GNT

No challenge is too great for Him, and no obstacle is too big for Him. Jesus gave this promise to us:

“This is impossible for human beings, but for God everything is possible”
Matthew 19:26, GNT

With God's leading as well as help from countless partners, TWFTW members are expanding the work of Bible translation to every corner of the Earth—to every tribe, nation and language still without His Word. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. Let us not give up and lose heart, but press on to complete all of the work that God has given us to do together.



“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Hosea 6:3, NIV

If you would like more info
on our Bible translation
projects, please contact us
or visit our website

info@twftw.org
twftw.org



**THE WORD
FOR THE WORLD™**
BIBLE TRANSLATORS